

computing the transient amplitude of the remaining audio signal;  
generating a second ratio, the second ratio being a ratio of the computed preferred audio signal transient amplitude to an instantaneous amplitude of the preferred audio signal;

generating a third ratio, the third ratio being a ratio of the computed secondary audio transient amplitude to an instantaneous amplitude of the remaining audio signal;

modifying the preferred audio signal based on the second ratio; and

modifying the remaining audio signal based on the third ratio;

wherein the preferred audio signal and the remaining audio signal are modified to maintain the first ratio during transient changes in at least one of the preferred audio signal and the remaining audio signal.

54. A method for optimizing a playing of an audio program, the audio program including a preferred audio signal and a remaining audio signal output to end users, the end users including both hearing impaired and non-hearing impaired listeners, comprising:

amplifying the preferred audio signal to a level specified by a user;

amplifying the remaining audio signal to a level specified by the user; and

modifying the outputs of the preferred audio signal amplification step and the remaining audio amplification step using a feedback correction loop so that an actual preferred audio signal to remaining audio signal (PSRA) ratio corresponds to the user's desired value of the preferred audio signal to remaining audio signal (PSRA) ratio.

#### REMARKS

Claims 34, 36-44, 53 and 54 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-11, 18-27, 35, 45-48, 50 and 52 are canceled without prejudice and disclaimer, claim 36 is amended to be placed in independent form, and claims 53 and 54 are

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